

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
December 29, 2006**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

**Contact: Sandy Focken
(502) 582-5911**

**LOUISVILLE MAN AND CHICAGO COUPLE CHARGED WITH
AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT AND BANK FRAUD
IN CONNECTION WITH CHEROKEE TRIANGLE REAL ESTATE SCAM**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that on December 29, 2006, a Complaint and Arrest Warrant were filed charging **JAMES C. HARDISON** of Louisville, Kentucky, with aggravated identity theft in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028A and mail fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341 both in connection with the fraudulent obtaining of mortgage loans on a Cherokee Triangle residence. **Hardison** was arrested by the United States Secret Service last night and made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court today before the Honorable Magistrate Judge Dave Whalin. Complaints were also filed in the United States District Court Clerk's Office on December 28, 2006, against **Willie Collins** and **Marilyn Rainey**, both of Chicago, Illinois. Both remain in the custody of the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department and are awaiting transfer to federal custody for their initial appearances.

More particularly, the Complaints allege that **Hardison**, **Rainey**, and **Collins** stole the identity of the owner of 2411 Longest Avenue to facilitate two fraudulent loan closings on the property. To effectuate their scheme, they also stole the identity of a Southern Indiana man so that **Hardison** could pose as a buyer at the closing, while **Rainey** posed as the actual owner of the property. Using these stolen identities, **Hardison**, **Rainey**, and **Collins** participated in two separate

closings on this same property. At the first closing they were able to obtain approximately \$290,000 in loan proceeds. They attempted to obtain a second closing and loan on the property in the same amount, but were arrested by the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department before they could withdraw these funds.

Hardison is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on January 3, 2007, at 3:30 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bryan Calhoun, and it was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department.

- END -

DLH:BRC:vlp:061229